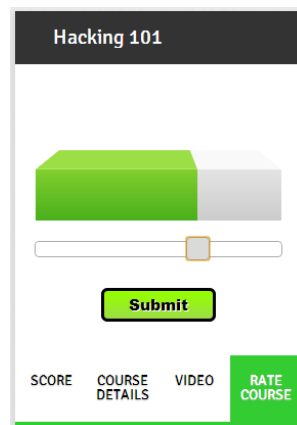


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HW2 – Heuristic Evaluation rethinkED

1. **Problem:** Efficiency- I did not like the course rating slider. Although a cool idea, it's not very accurate. You have these huge numbers plastered all over the site, but this UI slider is not conducive to accurate ratings.

**Heuristic:** Efficiency

**Severity:** Catastrophic



2. **Problem:** Main page seems very cluttered. It takes me a long time to even realize that there is something going on at the bottom of the page.

**Heuristic:** Visibility

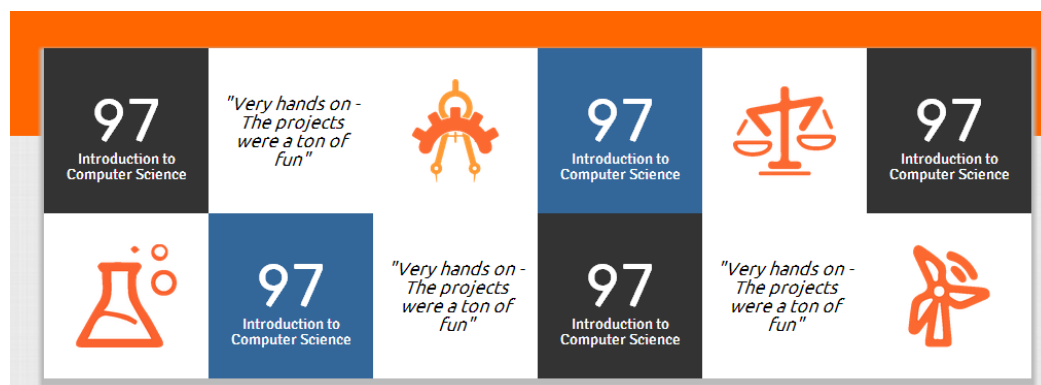
**Severity:** Minor

**Possible Solution:** Multiple pages, or getting rid of some things.

3. **Problem:** Not sure what the first section is for. I clicked around it and it mostly just distracts me. In my opinion it feels a bit like needless ads, and from a visibility point of view I want to ignore it. I think that there is not enough contrast between one ad and another. I'm not sure what numbers correspond to what classes or what comments correspond to what images. It really just seems like something that will distract the novice user, and something that an experienced user would ignore.

**Heuristic:** Learnability, visibility(constrast)

**Severity:** Minor



4. **Problem:** The filtering section does not really give a very good intuition, and lacks efficiency. You don't know what filters you applied after the fact, and takes a long time to find it. For example, in the image below, I applied 1 filter, but it is impossible to tell which one by glancing at it. I think if the site gave better feedback this could be improved greatly.

**Heuristic:** Visibility, feedback

**Severity:** Major



5. **Problem:** Searching by university, category or start date seems too broad. What if I am interested in something more specific than “math”, such as “linear algebra” and compare those results? I think the possibility of a simple search would greatly improve this.

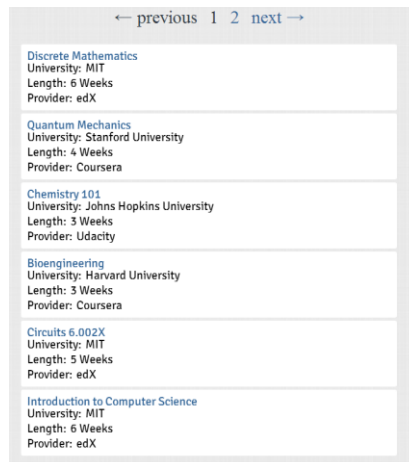
**Heuristic:** Efficiency

**Severity:** Minor

6. **Problem:** the ‘previous 1 2 next’ section should be at the bottom in terms of efficiency. If my cursor is at the bottom, I have to travel all the way to the top to traverse the options.

**Heuristic:** Efficiency, Fitt's Law

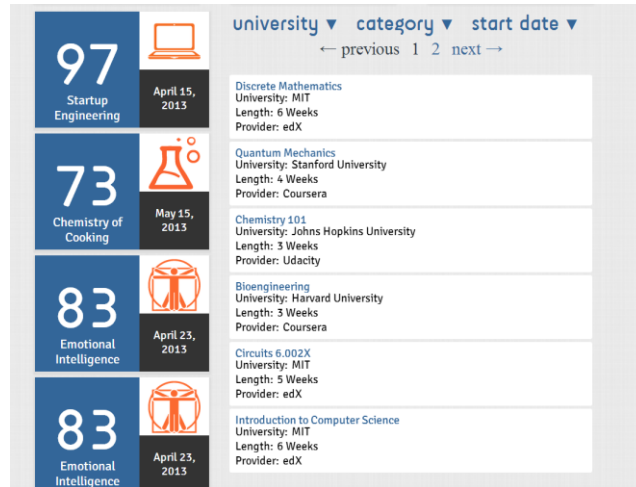
**Severity:** Minor



7. **Problem:** Again, once I'm at the bottom of the page I'm unsure of the functionality of the left side options. They seem to just be ads, and that doesn't really add much to the application at this point. You have the specific search results right there, so these ads just add some clutter.

**Heuristic:** Learnability, visibility

**Severity:** Cosmetic



8. **Problem:** The category menu is not intuitive and at first glance it seems like hovering over an option would bring up relevant submenus (a before and after image is shown below), but instead just brings up more options. This is not consistent with other sites, where usually hovering over a menu will show submenus. Example: hovering over economics might show "macro, micro", etc.

**Heuristic:** External consistency

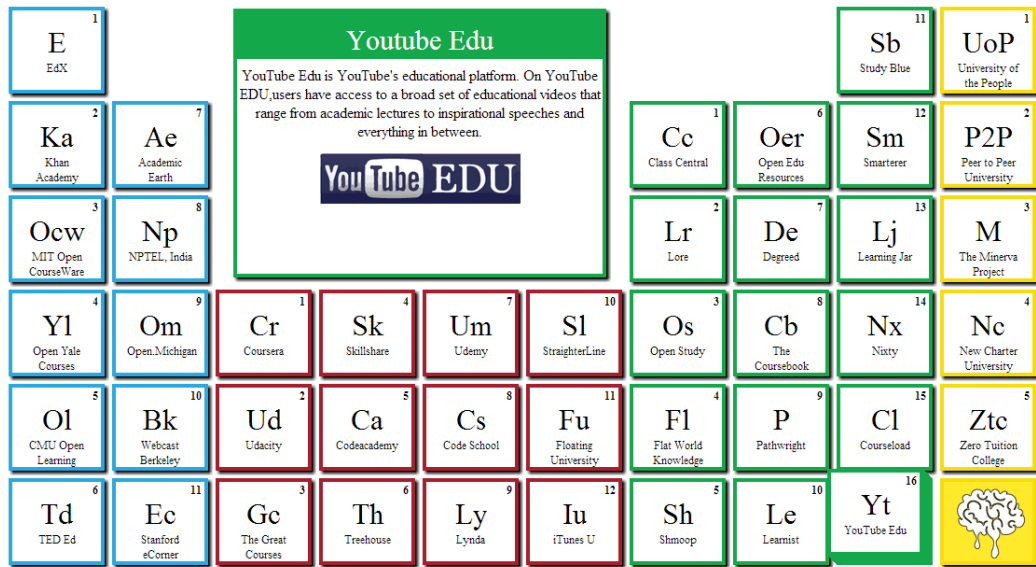
**Severity:** Major



9. **Problem:** Not sure why the periodic table metaphor was used. I don't think it preserves the metaphor of having certain properties for specific sections, and I'm not sure it adds enough to make up for the fact that it is hard to scan- from a learnability point of view no user will want to learn what all the symbols are for. Additionally, I noticed that once you hover on something, the center piece gives you some information that you can click. The problem is that In order to reach the center spot, you have to go over other squares, which overwrites what you were doing.

**Heuristic:** External consistency, efficiency, fitt's law

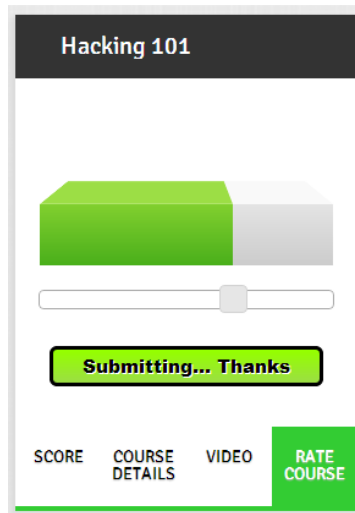
**Severity:** Major



10. **Problem :** It is not clear to me how to change your opinion on a rating or how to edit the rating. Perhaps this has not been implemented yet (since submitting doesn't do anything), but I think it is an important way to add a way to fix mistakes.

**Heuristic:** Safety

**Severity:** Minor



11. Good – the course rating is highly visible and is consistent to other rating systems. I like the way the circle coloring is representative of a rating, and when contrasted with other ratings it is obvious why a specific circle is colored more than another.



12. **Problem:** Opening one filter and switching to another keeps the previous filter open, which requires me to manually close it. This might be a bug or this might be a design decision, but I think it greatly decreases efficiency.

**Heuristic:** Usability, efficiency

**Severity:** Catastrophic



13. **Problem:** Ratings are splattered all over the place, but for some reason when you search for a class you don't see the ratings? I think this breaks the internal consistency that is being able to see how other people have ranked the specific class.

**Heuristic:** Internal consistency

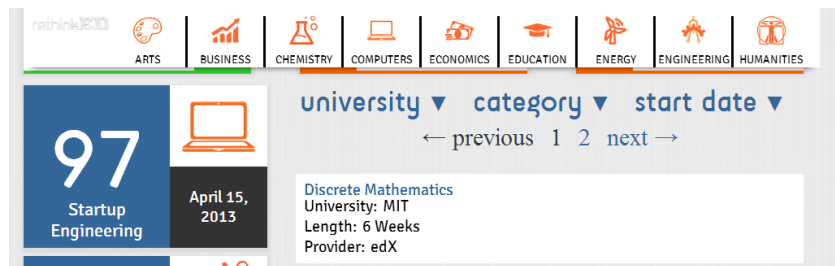
**Severity:** Minor

Discrete Mathematics  
University: MIT  
Length: 6 Weeks  
Provider: edX

14. **Problem:** The category menu scrolling with the page seems like an unnecessary feature. It is useless once you are at the bottom of the page and have other ways to find what you're looking for. The image below demonstrates that you could use the "category" or the category menu to achieve the same results. This is not to say that the category menu is a poor design choice, but that allowing it to scroll might result in it becoming redundant or just add clutter to the page.

**Heuristic:** Visibility, minimalist design

**Severity:** Minor



15. **Problem:** I think the main point of this site is to find good courses from different resources, so it might be good to point out which provider this actually comes from. It breaks consistency- when you use the bottom tool to find a class, you get more information than you get in this ad.

**Heuristic:** Internal Consistency

**Severity:** Minor

